

# Voices of RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

“ Our cooperation with IGE has been an essential component of the broad partnership with the United States in advancing religious freedom in Uzbekistan. We have been able to achieve very remarkable results! ”

— JAVLON VAKHABOV  
AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN  
TO THE US AND CANADA



INSTITUTE for GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



“ We build relationships and present our model of engagement and theory of change transparently; we are not prescriptive, rather, we genuinely seek to walk alongside and equip those who are already catalyzing change in their countries. ”

— JOHN BOYD, PRESIDENT & CEO,  
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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## IGE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY: REFLECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND REINVIGORATION

*Dear Friend of IGE,*

What a year! It gives me such peace to know that God is able to do much more than we ask or imagine through His power working in us.

As I reflect on 2020, some words that come to mind are **investment, relationship, trust, and integrity**. What initially drew me to IGE were the three pillars of our approach: The Teachings of Jesus, Relational Diplomacy, and Religious Freedom. It is no surprise that they continue to ring true, even more so now than before. I love how no matter what season we find ourselves, the foundation that IGE is built upon is rock solid. Our model and engagement strategy still flourishes, even amidst the profound changes and disruption our society and world experienced in 2020.

Thank you for walking alongside us throughout the year. Your ongoing support is so vital to IGE's success and I do hope that this report will encourage you regarding our mission, and the key role that you play in our work **catalyzing freedom of faith worldwide**.

This year saw significant progress in religious freedom in Uzbekistan, which was formally recognized by the U.S. State Department by removing the country from its "Special Watch List" of religious persecution. This progress is echoed by Uzbek citizens that IGE has had the privilege to interact with over the course of our work in the country. IGE has been most honored to walk alongside our partners in the government and faith communities during this time.

When I think about IGE's success in 2020, and certainly, over the past 20 years, and as we look ahead to the next 20, the stories you will read on the subsequent pages are not one-offs. They don't happen overnight. IGE's work is a gradual, consistent, steady process. We invest in long-term relationship building, always being true to our word, always showing up, and this opens up opportunities for **frank and honest dialogue over improving religious freedom for all**.

With God's continued blessing and leading, I see IGE marching through 2021 continuing to build and invest in these

relationships that have been long established, as well as **expanding into other program and country areas**. We will continue to work towards religious freedom and running our flagship Religion & Rule of Law training programs. As you will read, and what I hope you come away with, is that **IGE's work is centered on collaborative partnerships**.

Over the next several pages I hope these ideas that I have shared will come to life. I pray you will be able to grasp the gravitas of the people and programs that represent the work of IGE.

Thank you for your continued partnership as together, we stand in the gap for the persecuted around the world.

Sincerely in Jesus,

John Boyd | President & CEO





■ IGE is just as relevant and necessary today as it was when we started it 20 years ago, so I'm pleased that it has caught on and it has penetrated very difficult places like Vietnam, Laos, Uzbekistan, and China. ■

— AMBASSADOR ROBERT SEIPLE, CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, IGE

## IGE MISSION:

IGE catalyzes freedom of faith worldwide so that everyone has the ability to live what they believe.

### WE HAVE THREE MAIN PILLARS TO OUR APPROACH:



#### THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

We believe, share and live what Jesus taught us—love, acceptance and reconciliation lived in a way that compels engagement and understanding for all.



#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Committed to universal human dignity, we work for a future when all people, of any faith or no faith, have freedom of belief and equal citizenship. We spread the truth that religious freedom is integral to a flourishing society and a stable state.



#### RELATIONAL DIPLOMACY

We overcome obstacles of culture and religion by creating and nurturing mutually beneficial relationships, inviting all viewpoints to the table, working together as partners for the common good.

### HOW IGE PROGRAMS EFFECT CHANGE:

IGE creates the space where faith can be freely and safely discussed.

These spaces also create opportunities to engage key leaders who determine laws and policies that discriminate against people of faith. As the mindsets of these leaders change, they, in turn, influence laws, policies, and social attitudes such that people of faith gain greater freedom to live what they believe. The Church gains greater freedom to be salt and light in their communities.

# THE NUMBERS *tell all*

**1** Percentage increase in individual giving amidst a pandemic year.

**6** The number of official engagements with Uzbekistan government officials and members of Parliament about their Religion Law.  
Percentage increase in number of individual donors.

**11** Percentage of 2020 donors that were first-time donors.

**12** The number of grants awarded to IGE (and also 3x the number of grants IGE received in 2019).

**15** The number of churches in Uzbekistan that received legal status in 2020.

**25** The number of law schools and government agencies in Vietnam receiving the publication of the first-ever university textbook on religious freedom, "Law on the Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief." The textbook was developed and written in a collaboration between IGE and prominent Vietnamese scholars.

The number of countries represented among IGE's Center for Women, Faith, & Leadership (CWFL) Fellowship cohorts.

**39** The number of articles from IGE's journal, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* (RFIA), that were translated into Vietnamese, compiled into a four-volume compendium, and published in Vietnam.

**40** Percentage increase in overall income compared to 2019.

The number of Palestinian families in the West Bank receiving emergency food assistance from a food pantry set up by CWFL Fellow Christy Anastas as part of her capstone project.

**56** The number of women of faith leaders trained through IGE's CWFL Fellowship Program.

**75** The number of global forums which CWFL Fellows have participated in.

**80** The percentage of RFIA article downloads from outside the United States, demonstrating increasing worldwide reach and interest in IGE's original scholarship.

**188** The number of CWFL trainings conducted in 2020.

- 44 online trainings
- 5 Days of Prayer and Self-care Workshops
- 112 Mentoring sessions (quarterly one-on-one coaching with each Fellow)
- 27 Capstone project coaching sessions

**360** The number of copies of a compendium of IGE scholarship that were distributed to government agencies, educational institutions, and libraries throughout all 63 of Vietnam's cities and provinces.

**650** The number of church leaders trained from Asian countries where Christians are under persecution.

**56,000** The number of beneficiaries impacted through IGE's CWFL Fellowship projects and service programs.

**75,000** Growth in the number of RFIA articles downloaded from 2019 to 2020.



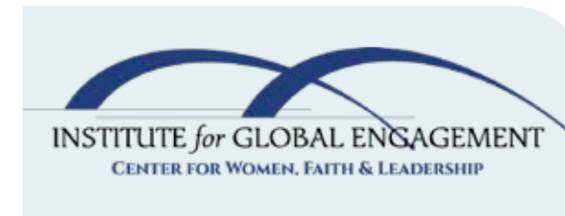
“ I am particularly impressed with one of IGE’s approaches: relational diplomacy. With such an approach, IGE has overcome many obstacles by creating and nurturing mutually beneficial relationships. We very much appreciate the amazing work of IGE and your partners in Vietnam to promote freedom of religion and belief over the past 15 years. ”

— HA KIM NGOC, AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM TO THE U.S.

# YEAR IN *Review*

## JANUARY

IGE’s Center for Women, Faith & Leadership launches its first ever **Distance Learning Fellowship Program** which welcomed 20 women of faith from around the world including: Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, India, and the United States. The Fellows are made up of both Christians and Muslims and come from professional sectors spanning the clergy, education, media, mental health, medicine, development, and social service.



## FEBRUARY

IGE was invited to speak at the annual **National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.** where we shared about our model of engagement and our work in Uzbekistan.



## MARCH

IGE’s Center for Women, Faith & Leadership **launches the fourth cohort of its flagship fellowship program.**

The one-year fellowship advances the leadership and skills of women of faith working on behalf of the vulnerable and marginalized. The 2020 fellowship cohort consists of 10 women of faith from around the world: Myanmar, India, Palestine, Malaysia, Australia, and the United States of America. The group is made up of Christians, Buddhists, and Muslims and come from professional sectors spanning religion, education, media, mental health, medicine, development, and social service.

# YEAR IN *Review* CONTINUED...

## APRIL

On April 2, 2020, IGE co-founder **Margaret Ann Goebel Seiple** passed away peacefully at 77 years old. She was a living example of what it means to be an “ambassador of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:20) and IGE honors the legacy of her life and faith.

IGE launches a successful **\$30,000 matching gift campaign**. We are deeply grateful for your faithful support which makes IGE’s work possible.

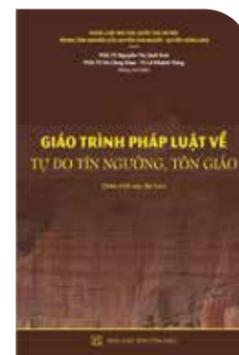
IGE’s work in Uzbekistan is featured on the website of the **Templeton Religion Trust (TRT)**. Last year, TRT awarded IGE a \$1.5 million grant for projects in key countries where IGE’s relational diplomacy has provided unique access and partnerships: China, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Myanmar.



## MAY

IGE participates in an **international consultation on Uzbekistan’s religion law**. The consultation provided an opportunity for IGE and global scholars and experts to provide feedback and comment on Uzbekistan’s draft legislation that will impact all religious communities.

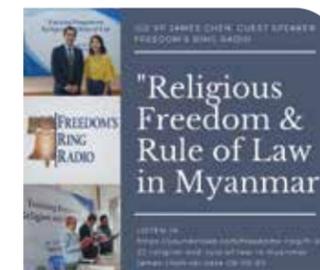
IGE’s Center for Women, Faith & Leadership holds a **Virtual Prayer & Self-care Summit** for current and past Fellows on addressing fatigue, trauma, stress, and anxiety during turbulent times.



IGE and Vietnam National University Law School publish the first-ever **Vietnamese textbook on religious freedom**.

IGE was invited to observe an **Uzbekistan parliamentary meeting** to evaluate the state of religious freedom. During the session, members of parliament queried government officials about the religion law and policies as well as the implementation of a Religious Freedom Roadmap.

## JUNE



IGE’s Vice President of Global Operations, James Chen, was interviewed on the **Freedom’s Ring radio** program about IGE’s work in Myanmar and our most recent religious freedom training program for Kachin church leaders. The Kachin are a predominantly Christian ethnic group in Myanmar that has undergone longstanding persecution from the Burmese military.

IGE and our Vietnam government partner, the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, publish a groundbreaking **four-volume compendium** of scholarship from IGE’s journal, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*. The publication was distributed to both central and local government officials throughout all of Vietnam’s 63 provinces.



## JULY

IGE welcomes **Knox Thames** to the team as a Senior Fellow. He was previously the U.S. State Department’s first Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Office of International Religious Freedom.



IGE was invited by the **Kazakhstan government to deliver a presentation** to government officials on our relational diplomacy model, theory of change, and success in catalyzing freedom of faith in Vietnam.

IGE President Emeritus **Chris Seiple** speaks at a Religious Freedom Institute webinar on Uzbekistan’s religious freedom progress and IGE’s role.

IGE was invited by the Vietnam Embassy in Washington, D.C., to take part in a celebration of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam. Within this bilateral relationship, IGE has played a key role in building people-to-people relations and engagement on good governance, human rights, and religious freedom.

# YEAR IN *Review* CONTINUED...

## AUGUST

IGE and Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) sign an agreement to develop a **Global Engagement and Religious Literacy Certificate Program**. The program will be taught by IWU professors and IGE experts who will share lessons learned from their experience engaging complex global contexts.



The Center for Security Studies in Zurich, Switzerland, publishes the Burmese translation of a report co-authored by IGE Myanmar program Officer Seng Mai Aung, **“Addressing Religion in Conflict: Insights and Case Studies from Myanmar”**. The report features case studies of religious peacebuilding efforts by IGE and other NGOs.



## SEPTEMBER



IGE celebrates its **20th anniversary** and is thankful for video messages from our partners and friends around the world!

IGE participates in the **fourth consultation on Uzbekistan’s draft religion law**. The consultation was also attended by the U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and representatives from the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

## OCTOBER

IGE and the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics announce a collaboration to publish a Vietnamese translation of **Religion and Security: The New Nexus in International Relations**, which was edited by IGE co-founder Robert Seiple and Senior Fellow Dennis Hoover. The book will serve as an important resource for leaders in government, academia, and civil society in Vietnam.

## NOVEMBER

IGE hosts a webinar on **“Women of Faith’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”** in conjunction with the 2020 Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief, the largest international conference convening government and civil society leaders to address religious freedom.



Vietnam National University Law School holds a book launch for **“Law on the Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief,”** the first-ever textbook on religious freedom and law in Vietnam which was jointly written and edited by IGE and Vietnam National University Law School. The textbook will be part of the curriculum for a master’s program in human rights, the first of its kind in Vietnam. The textbook will also serve as a valuable reference for government officials and legislators working on the drafting and implementation of laws and policies affecting religious practice.



IGE welcomes **Wade Kusack** to the team as Senior Fellow for Central Asia. IGE has partnered with Mr. Kusack on projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan since 2011.

Darrell L. Bock (Dallas Theological Seminary), Nadine Maenza (US Commission on International Religious Freedom), and Paul Marshall (Baylor University) join IGE’s **Board of Directors**.

## DECEMBER

IGE exceeds our #GivingTuesday goal. We are grateful for each of you that continue to support IGE and our mission to catalyze freedom of faith worldwide.

The **U.S. State Department removes Uzbekistan from its “special watch list”** in recognition of the significant progress in religious freedom. IGE is thankful to walk alongside our partners in Uzbekistan in bringing about these extraordinary changes.



IGE holds a **webinar** on models of Christian peacemaking in the U.S. and worldwide.

IGE holds a **Religion & Rule of Law training** for Kachin leaders in Myanmar. The training program was the second collaborative effort between IGE and the Kachin Baptist Convention.

IGE’s Center for Women, Faith & Leadership graduates its first-ever **Distance Learning Fellowship** cohort.

You

## HELP ENGAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LAWMAKERS TO IMPROVE LAWS AND POLICIES ON FREEDOM OF FAITH.

For many years, Uzbekistan was designated by the U.S. government as a “Country of Particular Concern” for religious freedom. However, starting in 2016, Uzbekistan’s new president initiated major reforms which, among other things, significantly improved religious freedom in the country. Based on IGE’s record in Vietnam of working with both the government and grassroots in improving religious freedom, Uzbekistan viewed IGE as a natural partner to work with.

In 2018, IGE and the Uzbekistan government signed an official agreement to partner together on building religious freedom. Since then, we have seen major progress. Examples include: granting legal recognition to a number of evangelical churches, freeing those imprisoned on religious grounds, and improving parts of their Religion Law in response to international feedback. IGE’s training programs, conferences, and scholarship have played a key role in ushering in these positive changes. In 2019, this progress was recognized by the U.S. government when it removed Uzbekistan from the list of the worst violators of religious freedom, making it only the second country ever to be removed from this list (the first was Vietnam, also a country where IGE has a long track record).



“Welcome news that Uzbekistan released or pardoned over 1,500 citizens unjustly imprisoned on religious grounds since 2016. Combined with new streamlined procedures for registering religious organizations, we’re seeing very positive steps towards greater #ReligiousFreedom.”

– DANIEL ROSENBLUM,  
US AMBASSADOR TO UZBEKISTAN  
AUGUST 2020

“ The theory of change and the practical strategy of engagement that we learned from IGE helped us develop the unique approach to advancing religious freedom in Kazakhstan and other Central Asia countries. ”

– WADE KUSACK, SENIOR FELLOW FOR CENTRAL ASIA, IGE



"#HappeningNow. Consultations on the new draft Law on #ReligiousFreedom're being held w/key stakeholders (@IRF\_ Ambassador, @ahmedshaheed, @CSeiple, @Elizabe66410334, @VeniceComm, @OSCE, @nadinemaenza &+). More liberal steps towards further advancing #ReligiousFreedom in Uzbekistan to come."

— JAVLON VAKHABOV,  
AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE U.S. AND CANADA  
SEPTEMBER 2020

"It was a privilege to join this important conversation hosted by Amb @JavlonVakhabov to discuss #Uzbekistan's new draft religion law. Pleased to see this open and transparent process. We at @USCIRF are encouraged by continued progress!"

— NADINE MAENZA,  
COMMISSIONER, U.S. COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
SEPTEMBER 2020

In 2020, IGE facilitated a series of consultations where Uzbekistan government officials and members of parliament received feedback and recommendations on their Religion Law from international legal experts. In response, the draft law, while still a work in progress, has been amended to better reflect international standards of religious freedom. The government also announced changes in policies to allow parents to bring children to religious gatherings as well as issue legal standing to more Christian churches. Near the end of 2020, the U.S. government removed Uzbekistan from its international religious freedom "Special Watch List," further affirming the extraordinary progress that has taken place in the country.

While religious freedom has deteriorated worldwide, Uzbekistan has become one of the few bright spots where it has significantly improved. IGE is deeply grateful to walk alongside our partners in the country that made this possible. Thank you for supporting IGE and our local partners!

**Through your support, you help engage government officials and lawmakers to improve laws and policies on freedom of faith.**



“ One of the things that I reflect on most often, especially as the world seems to become more and more divided, is how the team at IGE was able to build enduring relationships with people who did not think the same despite significant differences politically, culturally, and religiously, the IGE team nevertheless has engaged with people all over the world around the idea of religious freedom and been able to lay groundwork that is still able to have a positive impact years and in some cases decades later. ”

— MARK CHRISTENSON, PRESIDENT, MD7, AND FORMER IGE BOARD MEMBER

You

## HELP EQUIP THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WITH RESOURCES TO ADVANCE FREEDOM OF FAITH.

Since 2004, IGE has worked with both government leaders and the people of Vietnam to build religious freedom. For years the U.S. government had designated Vietnam as a “country of particular concern” (CPC) where religious persecution was systematic and egregious. However, over the course of IGE’s work in the country, this designation was removed due to the significant progress made. Vietnam is one of just three countries whose CPC designations were removed.

While the pandemic forced a delay for some of IGE’s programs in Vietnam, God was faithful to open new doors for IGE to continue pursuing our mission. In particular, IGE and our extraordinary Vietnam partners were able to greatly expand and extend the reach of Vietnamese-language religious freedom scholarship and resources throughout the country. These resources are vital for equipping local leaders and influencers with the tools and knowledge to catalyze positive change.

For example, IGE partnered with Vietnam National University (VNU) Law School to publish the first-ever textbook on the legal protection of religious freedom. For the first time in Vietnam, university classes will teach about religious freedom as a fundamental right protected under the law. This textbook will not only be incorporated into the curriculum of VNU Law School, but more importantly it has been widely distributed to other universities and academic institutions throughout the country, impacting the next generation of government leaders, legal professionals, and scholars in Vietnam.

“ In Vietnam, there have been many publications on religion and beliefs, but this is the first one focusing on freedom of religion and belief – a topic that many people are still hesitant to discuss. The textbook will be part of the curriculum of the Master’s program in human rights law at VNU Law School. ”

– PROFESSOR VU CONG GIAO,  
DIRECTOR, VNU LAW SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

“ IGE impresses me the most by operating as its name. It engages and deepens the relationships between countries, scholars, and politicians, so that it can connect more with the aforementioned entities and have the aforementioned entities understand one another better. ”

– DO LAN HIEN,  
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF RELIGION AND BELIEF,  
HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS



IGE also partnered with the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (NAP) to publish a groundbreaking four-volume compendium of scholarship from IGE's journal, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*. The NAP is the Vietnamese government's premier training institution for government and party leaders. The bilingual Vietnamese/English compendium is the first-ever publication in Vietnam to address religion and religious freedom from a global perspective. Moreover, the publication has been disseminated to government agencies and institutions throughout all of Vietnam's 63 provinces and cities. Since many of the religion-related problems in Vietnam occur in rural regions, this compendium will help inform and shape the mindsets of local leaders, ultimately leading to positive change. This is crucial because it raises public awareness about protecting religious freedom by law. Now, the next generation of researchers and advocates for religious freedom in Vietnam have access to these materials, in Vietnamese and English.

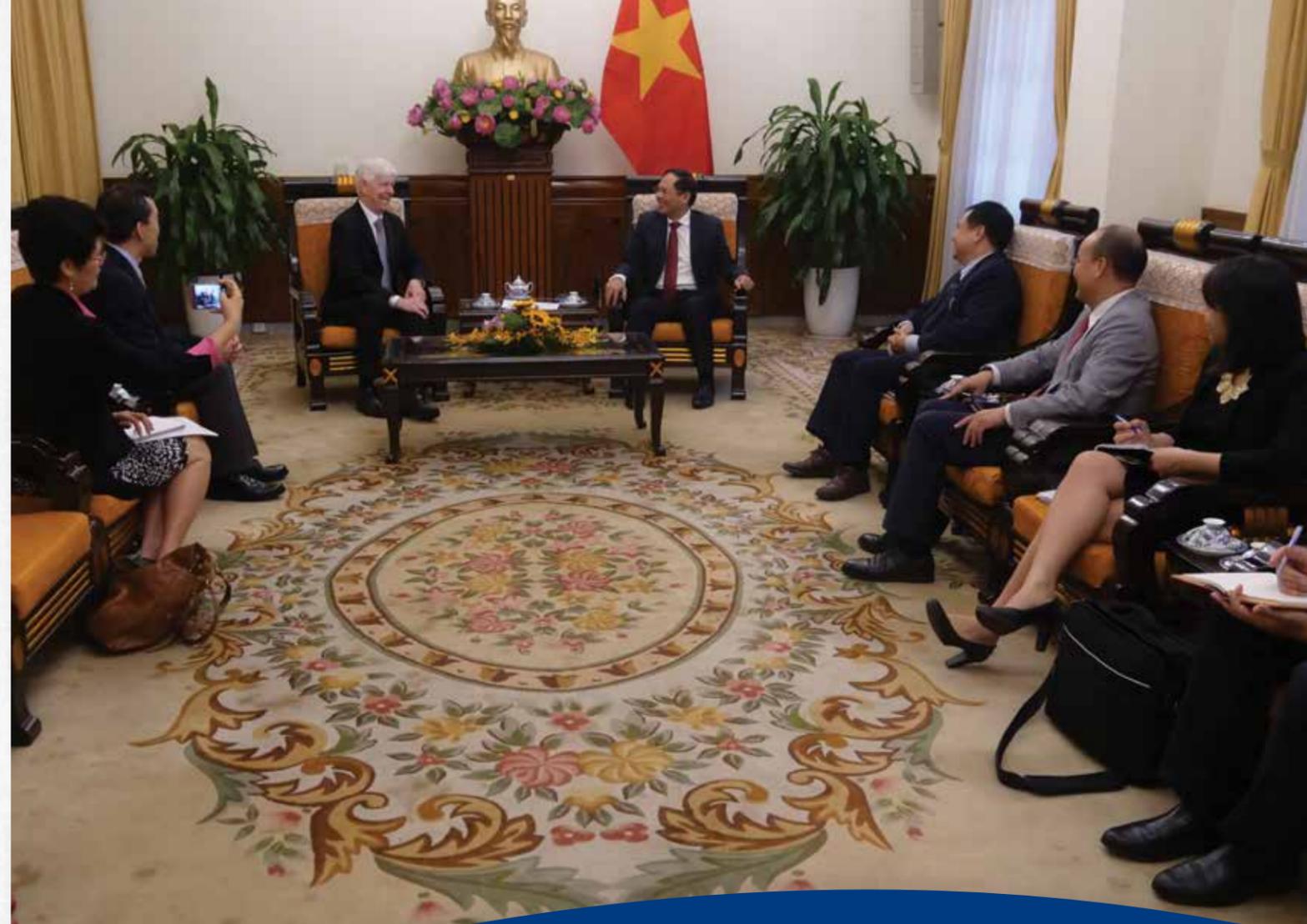
In equipping the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and change agents in Vietnam with previously inaccessible knowledge and resources on religious freedom and law in their native language, IGE's work will have far-reaching long-term impact.

IGE is honored and blessed to be invited into these relationships. As Vietnamese leaders increasingly recognize that advancing religious freedom is beneficial for the nation overall, IGE is regarded as a trusted partner in this effort. IGE's Vietnam partners are increasingly both proactively approaching IGE with new and exciting opportunities as well as collaborating with each other, demonstrating a stronger sense of local ownership of the mission to promote freedom of faith.

**Thank you for your support of IGE. As demonstrated in the last year alone in Vietnam, you equip the next generation of leaders with resources to advance freedom of faith.**

■ *Vietnam is working out how to create necessary channels for religion to participate in society, particularly in health care, education, welfare, and charity. This compendium provides critical scholarship to inform debates on this topic taking place now in our country.* ■

— DO LAN HIEN,  
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF RELIGION AND BELIEF,  
HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS



■ *Religious freedom is the most important dimension of human dignity and the most important human right. The Institute for Global Engagement works to protect this human right, the right of people to worship and to live out their religious faith in community and to express it openly. In some of the countries where it is repressed and suffocated most, where people suffer the worst for their religious convictions, and yet it does not do this through the usual methods of confrontation and exposure, but rather through an ingenious mode of relationship and dialogue with government officials and people in a position to influence the fate of religious freedom.* ■

— DANIEL PHILPOTT, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

You

# HELP EQUIP LEADERS OF PERSECUTED RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR FREEDOM OF FAITH IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

Since IGE began working in Myanmar in 2012, our conferences and training programs have focused on advancing good governance, rule of law, and the status of the country's religious and ethnic minorities.



IGE is blessed to have gained the deep trust of partners in Myanmar over the course of our work in the country. Many international organizations have come under criticism from Burmese society for pushing agendas that ignore the local context and ultimately make things worse. IGE's programs, on the other hand, are always initiated at the request and invitation of our local partners as a function of the deep importance we place on listening first and focusing on their priorities. Relationships are integral and the driving force that complements and enables IGE's efforts in Myanmar.

“What should we do in the midst of the chaos and conflicts that Kachin face? That was the question I had. This training answered my question... Having a chance to learn from the case studies was very valuable...I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers and faculty of this training.”

— TING YING,  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION,  
KACHIN BAPTIST CONVENTION



“IGE's approach is that we engage government leaders, we engage faith communities on the ground, and we build partnerships with them, we walk alongside them, and we help them in the long-term work to change the laws, change policies, and change norms and attitudes in that country, and so it's really been a privilege for me to take part in this work.”

— JAMES CHEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL OPERATIONS, IGE

For the past two years IGE has partnered with the Kachin Baptist Convention to hold religious freedom training programs. The Kachin people are a majority-Christian ethnic group in Myanmar that has been embroiled in conflict with the Burmese military. Throughout the conflict, which has been characterized as a “slow genocide,” Kachin civilians have suffered death, torture, rape, and other atrocities along with the destruction of villages and churches. There are currently over 100,000 Kachin who have been forced from their homes and are living in refugee camps. IGE’s trainings provide rare opportunities for Kachin leaders to hear from global experts on effectively engaging governing authorities and building strategic alliances to promote religious freedom. These tools and knowledge will become increasingly important if the deterioration in Myanmar’s political and social cohesion continues its recent downward trend.

In spite of the heartbreaking suffering and atrocities that the Kachin people have endured, their plight unfortunately attracts little international attention. IGE is thankful that for the past two years we have had the opportunity to walk alongside and partner with our brothers and sisters at the Kachin Baptist Convention, which serves as the largest and most influential grassroots organization amongst the Kachin people. We pray that God would use our efforts to help the Kachin people secure the dignity, security, and rights that is their due, and for all citizens of Myanmar to obtain their freedom.

**Thank you for your support of IGE. Your gifts help equip leaders of persecuted religious communities to advocate for freedom of faith in their countries.**

“ We minorities have been living in fear in a country where there was no rule of law for five, six decades. We are grateful that the Religion and Rule of Law training opened our eyes to see how different laws have been persecuting religious minorities and how these laws affect different countries. We would really like to continue holding these training programs a lot more in the future to expand our perspective. ”

— **KD AWNG NAN**,  
DIRECTOR, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,  
KACHIN BAPTIST CONVENTION



“ I feel like over the years I’ve seen IGE really live out the Christian values at the core of its identity and yet at the same time really strive to learn and understand about the cultural and faith identities of the populations that we work with. It’s something that I really admire about the organization, and it’s one of the major reasons why I’ve been here since 2009. ”

— **KRISTEN LUNDQUIST**,  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR WOMEN, FAITH & LEADERSHIP, IGE



# You

## HELP WOMEN OF FAITH LEADERS WORLDWIDE ADVOCATE FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS.

IGE's **Center for Women, Faith & Leadership (CWFL)** supports and equips women of faith to assume and advance in leadership roles and influence decision making in global affairs, with particular emphasis in areas where women are most affected yet have had the least influence: religious freedom, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. One of CWFL's most impactful initiatives is the Fellowship program. 2020 marked its fourth year as well as IGE's first year running two concurrent Fellowship cohorts.

“It's been amazing to see that program and see how women have been brought together from around the world to reflect and be given the space to deepen their leadership skills as well as to be connected and to know that they are not alone in this work.”

— CASSANDRA LAWRENCE,  
PROJECT AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER CAMPAIGN, AND CWFL ADVISOR

One of the unique aspects of the CWFL Fellowship is the multi-faith cohort. Women's leadership programs tend to be secular, without the opportunity for women to bring their vital faith identity to the table. On the other end of the spectrum, various faith groups also provide women's leadership training, but their participants consist solely of members of that particular faith. The CWFL Fellowship, however, integrates women from different faiths. In today's global world, learning to engage and build bridges with people from different faith backgrounds is a critical skill for resolving conflict and building peace.

Moreover, while most leadership training programs focus only on skillsets, the CWFL Fellowship integrates:

- 1) tangible skill building (e.g., negotiation and public speaking),
- 2) identity formation and resilience, and
- 3) leadership sustainability and psycho-social self-care.



In 2020, IGE's CWFL Fellows discovered the immediate applicability of the skills and tools they were learning from our program to their work with marginalized and vulnerable communities amidst the pandemic. For example:



Applying self-care methods for sustainability (addressing compassion fatigue, trauma healing exercises, helping skills, etc.) when facing the daunting task of running a COVID medical treatment unit in an impoverished region of India.



Using cause marketing strategies and storytelling to fundraise for impoverished ethnic minority populations in Myanmar who are struggling to obtain personal protective equipment.



Utilizing primary research methods and trauma-informed interviewing to understand the unique needs of minority refugee women and girls seeking to break free of domestic abuse in Australia while contending with strict COVID lockdown protocols.



Utilizing negotiation skills to establish a food bank in the West Bank to aid Palestinian families who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and are struggling to feed their families.



Using skills in public speaking and dialogue to educate women in Malaysia about COVID and dispelling misinformation so women can feel empowered to keep their families safe and prevent the spread of the virus.

Hearing about the amazing work of this year's fellows and all of our alumna (56 women across 25 countries) was inspiring! While it is easy to sink into pessimism and despair, our Fellows focused on steps they could take to make a difference. Sister Theresa Eke, a member of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Nigeria, shared how the program equipped her to engage in multi-faith dialogue, which was especially critical during a time when cooperation and community was needed. She also implemented sustainable self-care measures for her and her staff. Sister Theresa shared that she had been praying for confidence to use the skills and knowledge she had learned from the fellowship to help her community. As she prayed, she heard, "All you need has been given to you, now go out and help others to learn." With the support of God and the other fellows, Sister Theresa is now leading mini-Fellowships for women within her own community!

**When you support IGE and our Center for Women, Faith & Leadership, you are helping women of faith leaders worldwide advocate for vulnerable and marginalized populations. CWFL Fellows in turn run mini-Fellowships within their own communities; this program addresses sustainability and models sustainability, we are excited to see continued opportunities of growth for this program!**

*"The 2020 CWFL Fellowship helped me understand how taking care of myself was not selfish, but rather how important it is to take rest and Sabbath as a women-of-faith leader. I feel that through the Fellowship program, all that I need has been given to me, and now it is my turn to go out, teach, and let others also learn."*

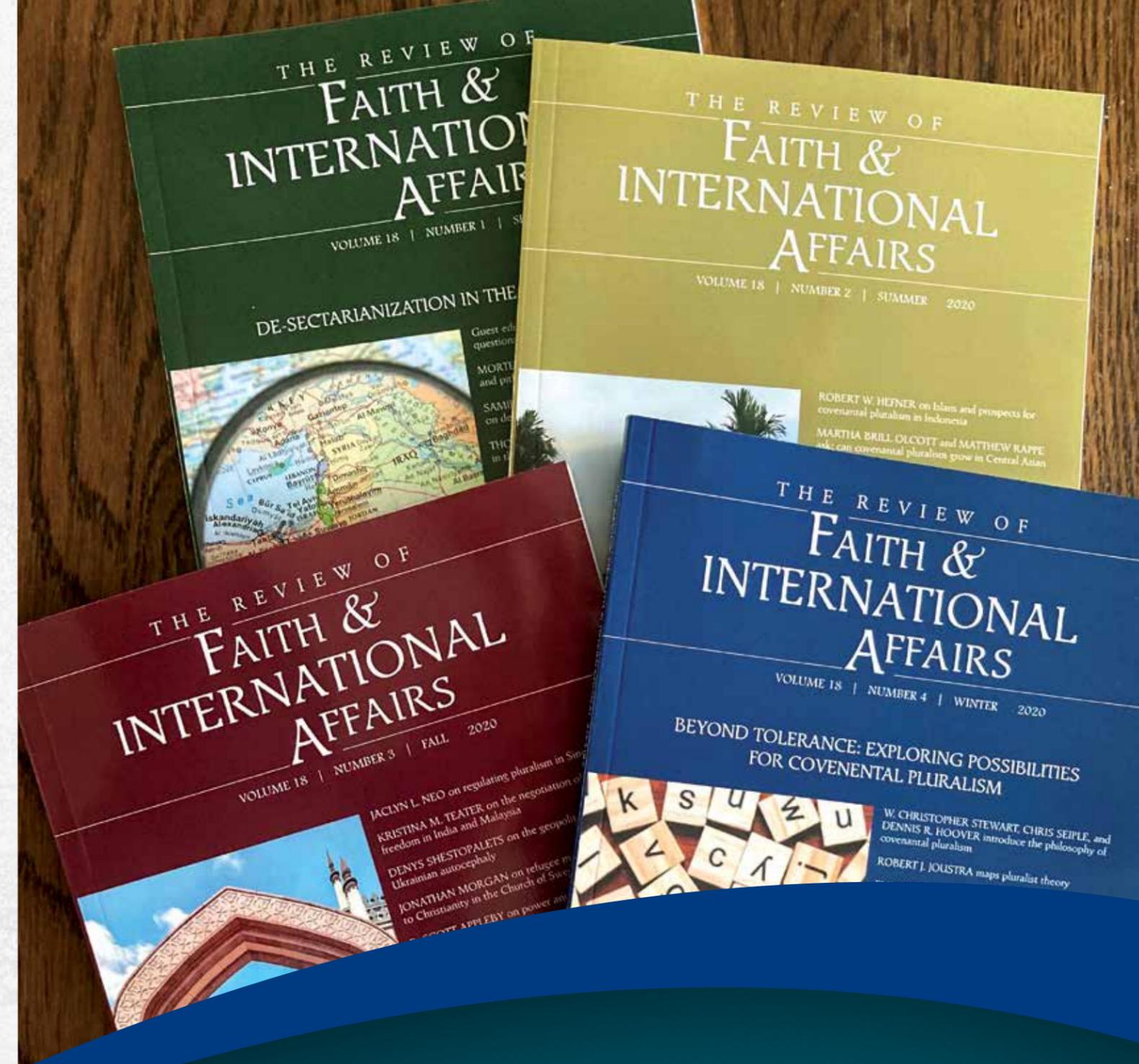
**— SISTER THERESA EKE**  
THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, NIGERIA



You

## HELP PUBLISH CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND PEACEBUILDING IN THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST PLACES.

IGE's journal, **The Review of Faith & International Affairs (RFIA)**, is a pioneer in the field of religion and international affairs, filling a gap with accessible peer-reviewed research articles and thoughtful commentaries that are referenced both in policy discussions as well as academic debates. IGE scholarship will be featured in a forthcoming book, "The Routledge Handbook of Religious Literacy, Pluralism, and Global Engagement, co-edited by IGE president emeritus Chris Seiple and IGE senior fellow Dennis Hoover. RFIA articles are also often featured across various blogs, such as the Religion and Global Society blog at the London School of Economics. More than just an academic research outlet, IGE strives to make our research relevant and accessible to everyone, especially our partners and the next generation of religious freedom advocates worldwide.



“ We seek a world where we can live with our deepest differences because we agree—not despite but because of our different moral points of departure—to engage, respect & protect the other who does not believe or act as we do. Tolerance is not enough. We must move beyond diversity (the presence of difference) to the common obligation of a covenantal pluralism (mutually respectful engagement). ”

— CHRIS SEIPLE, PRESIDENT EMERITUS, IGE

Both at home and abroad, religious and political conflicts are becoming dangerously bitter and polarized. Threats to freedom of conscience are mounting from multiple directions. In a global context of deep differences, it is not enough to call for mere arms-length “tolerance.” IGE recognizes that building a world of genuine fairness and freedom for all—a world of robust, covenantal pluralism—requires mutually respectful engagement and cross-cultural religious literacy. RFIA is exploring these themes through its ongoing Covenantal Pluralism Series, funded by the Templeton Religion Trust. The series has commissioned case studies of prospects for covenantal pluralism all across Asia, with a particular focus on the countries where IGE works.

In 2020 there have been an increase in requests from our overseas partners to publish translations of IGE’s scholarship. Several examples of such collaborations with our Vietnamese partners can be seen on page 20. A special RFIA theme issue on Myanmar has also been translated into Burmese, and we are currently translating several articles into Russian and Uzbek for use by partners in Central Asia.

This is just one of the many ways IGE educates the leaders of tomorrow, equipping them with the resources and knowledge to catalyze freedom of faith in their countries.

**When you support IGE, you are helping to publish cutting-edge research on freedom of religion which we make accessible for our overseas partners.**

“ First, IGE has increased the ability of the central Lao government to work with religious organizations in the countryside. Second, IGE has facilitated greater ecumenical cooperation between religious organizations. Third, IGE has supported the education of the government and local communities regarding the human right of religious belief in Laos. ”

— LEE HUA THAO, IGE LAOS PROGRAM CONSULTANT

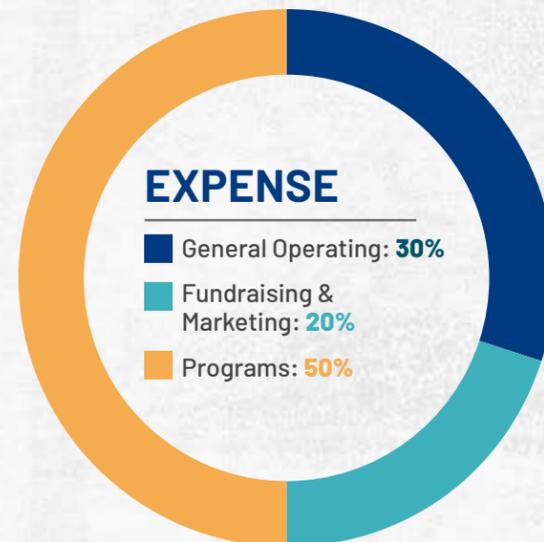
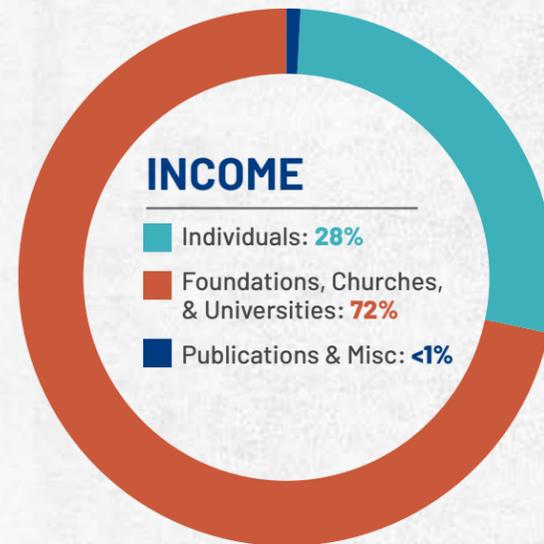
“ IGE has played an important and effective role in promoting religious freedom. Why effective? Because they don’t try to impose their own ideas, but first try to understand the societies where they serve. They build relationships, because - I believe, they understand the necessity of Christ. They know that the messenger can be more important than the message itself. Religious freedom can be a confusing or even a threatening concept to some people, so IGE, they understand that first and foremost of all it’s about people, that’s why they focus on what really matters. In case you’re not familiar with the IGE, I encourage you to find out more about what they do, who they are, and their great works that deserve our support ”

— MATIUS HO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LEIMENA INSTITUTE (INDONESIA)



# 2020 FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

INCOME	
Contributions Income	418,773
Grant Income	1,072,389
Other Income	7,459
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,498,621</b>
EXPENSE	
Salary, Taxes, and Benefits	601,890
Professional Fees	260,381
Associates and Honoraria	83,446
General Office Expenses	18,941
Promotion and Publication	22,271
Travel, Food, and Accommodations	3,143
Telephone, Fax, and Internet	14,437
Partner Expenses	34,000
Depreciation and Amortization	1,131
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,039,640</b>



# MEET THE *Team*



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President & CEO



**James Chen**  
Vice President of  
Global Operations



**Meagan Carner**  
Operations Manager



**Lindsay Kuntz**  
Director of Strategic  
Partnerships



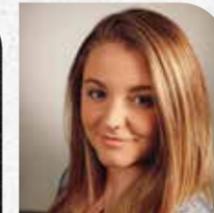
**Hien Vu**  
Program Manager  
for Vietnam



**Dennis Hoover**  
Senior Fellow  
Editor-in Chief, RFIA



**Kristen Lundquist**  
Program Director,  
Center for Women,  
Faith & Leadership



**Kaylee Fisher**  
Program Assistant,  
Center for Women,  
Faith & Leadership



**Seng Mai Aung**  
Program Officer for  
Myanmar



**Wade Kusack**  
Senior Fellow for  
Central Asia



**Knox Thames**  
Senior Fellow



**Stephen Bailey**  
Program Officer  
for Laos

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IGE is committed to modeling and maintaining the highest standards in our work, including our commitment to financial integrity. IGE is **accredited by ECFA**, a National Financial Accountability Organization. ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance and ethical fundraising. IGE is also a **Guidestar 2021 Gold Seal** of transparency recipient.



Kositzka, Wicks & Company is IGE's independent auditor. This report reflects our most recent audit and IGE's audited financial statements can be found at: <https://globalengage.org/support>.



INSTITUTE *for* GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Thank you for standing in the gap for those persecuted for their faith around the world! We welcome your continued partnership in 2021.

IGE is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (Tax ID: 23-3042456).  
All contributions are tax deductible.

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